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☐ 1. Document ID: US 6323894 B1

L6: Entry 1 of 7

File: USPT

Nov 27, 2001

US-PAT-NO: 6323894

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6323894 B1

**** See image for Certificate of Correction ****

TITLE: Commercial product routing system with video vending capability

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Abstract	Abstracting	Claims	KWIC	Draw. Data
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☐ 2. Document ID: US 6108640 A

L6: Entry 2 of 7

File: USPT

Aug 22, 2000

US-PAT-NO: 6108640

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6108640 A

TITLE: System for calculating occasion dates and converting between different calendar systems, and intelligent agent for using same

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Abstract	Abstracting	Claims	KWIC	Draw. Data
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☐ 3. Document ID: US 6012049 A

L6: Entry 3 of 7

File: USPT

Jan 4, 2000

US-PAT-NO: 6012049

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6012049 A

TITLE: System for performing financial transactions using a smartcard

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Abstract	Abstracting	Claims	KWIC	Draw. Data
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☐ 4. Document ID: US 5983200 A

L6: Entry 4 of 7

File: USPT

Nov 9, 1999

US-PAT-NO: 5983200

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5983200 A

**** See image for Certificate of Correction ****

TITLE: Intelligent agent for executing delegated tasks

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Claims	KWIC	Draw D
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☐ 5. Document ID: US 5979757 A

L6: Entry 5 of 7

File: USPT

Nov 9, 1999

US-PAT-NO: 5979757

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5979757 A

TITLE: Method and system for presenting item information using a portable data terminal

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Claims	KWIC	Draw D
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☐ 6. Document ID: US 5971273 A

L6: Entry 6 of 7

File: USPT

Oct 26, 1999

US-PAT-NO: 5971273

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5971273 A

TITLE: Automated florist system allowing direct contact with delivering florist

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Claims	KWIC	Draw D
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☐ 7. Document ID: US 5918213 A

L6: Entry 7 of 7

File: USPT

Jun 29, 1999

US-PAT-NO: 5918213

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5918213 A

TITLE: System and method for automated remote previewing and purchasing of music, video, software, and other multimedia products

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Claims	KWIC	Draw D
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L6: Entry 1 of 7

File: USPT

Nov 27, 2001

US-PAT-NO: 6323894

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6323894 B1

**** See image for Certificate of Correction ****

TITLE: Commercial product routing system with video vending capability

DATE-ISSUED: November 27, 2001

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
Katz, Ronald A.	Los Angeles	CA		

ASSIGNEE-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY	TYPE CODE
Telebuyer, LLC	Los Angeles	CA			02

APPL-NO: 08/ 189405 [PALM]

DATE FILED: January 27, 1994

PARENT-CASE:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS This application is a continuation-in-part of application Ser. No. 08/154,313, entitled "SCHEDULING AND PROCESSING SYSTEM FOR TELEPHONE VIDEO COMMUNICATION" and filed on Nov. 17, 1993, U.S. Pat. No. 5,495,284 which is a continuation-in-part application of application Ser. No. 08/067,783 ABN, entitled "VIDEOPHONE SYSTEM FOR SCRUTINY MONITORING WITH COMPUTER CONTROL" and filed on May 25, 1993, which is a continuation-in-part application of application Ser. No. 08/031,235, entitled "VIDEOPHONE SYSTEM FOR SCRUTINY MONITORING WITH COMPUTER CONTROL" and filed on Mar. 12, 1993 U.S. Pat. No. 5,412,708. The subject matter in all the above-identified co-pending and commonly owned applications is incorporated herein by reference.

INT-CL: [07] H04 M 11/00

US-CL-ISSUED: 348/15; 379/93.12, 379/93.25, 705/27

US-CL-CURRENT: 348/14.08; 379/93.12, 379/93.25, 705/27

FIELD-OF-SEARCH: 348/14, 348/15, 348/16, 348/17, 348/18, 348/19, 379/96, 379/94, 379/97, 379/98, 379/93, 379/93.21, 379/93.17, 379/93.12, 379/93.14, 379/93.01, 379/202, 379/204, 379/205, 370/62, 705/26, 705/27, 705/35-38

PRIOR-ART-DISCLOSED:

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L6: Entry 2 of 7

File: USPT

Aug 22, 2000

US-PAT-NO: 6108640

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6108640 A

TITLE: System for calculating occasion dates and converting between different calendar systems, and intelligent agent for using same

DATE-ISSUED: August 22, 2000

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
Slotznick, Benjamin	Mt. Gretna	PA	17064	

APPL-NO: 09/ 006681 [\[PALM\]](#)

DATE FILED: January 13, 1998

PARENT-CASE:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS This application is a continuation-in-part is U.S. application Ser. No. 08/944,923, filed Oct. 6, 1997 now U.S. Pat. No. 5,983,200 entitled "INTELLIGENT AGENT FOR EXECUTING DELEGATED TASKS", which is incorporated by reference in its entirety herein. This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application Ser. No. 60/035,189, filed Jan. 14, 1997, entitled "APPARATUS FOR CALCULATING HOLIDAY DATES AND CONVERTING BETWEEN CALENDAR SYSTEMS".

INT-CL: [07] [G06 F 17/60](#)

US-CL-ISSUED: 705/26; 705/1, 705/27, 705/28, 705/39, 705/40, 706/11, 706/59, 704/9, 364/705.08

US-CL-CURRENT: [705/26](#); [704/9](#), [705/1](#), [705/27](#), [705/28](#), [705/39](#), [705/40](#), [706/11](#), [706/59](#), [708/112](#)

FIELD-OF-SEARCH: 705/26, 705/27, 705/10, 705/6, 705/8, 705/1, 705/28, 705/39, 705/40, 706/11, 706/59, 704/9, 345/326, 364/479.01, 364/705.08, 368/108, 368/24, 377/52

PRIOR-ART-DISCLOSED:

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<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5764597</u>	June 1998	Shih	368/29

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International Search Report for PCT/US98/00628, 2 pages.

Rubenking, N., "Windows Wake-up Call", PC Magazine, Nov. 19, 1996, p. 60.

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Author unknown, SoftwareLabs [Internet], [retrieved on Mar. 9, 1999], retrieved from www.softwarelabs.com, 1-13, Nov. 1995.

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International Search Report for PCT/US97/18307, 2 pages.

ART-UNIT: 271

PRIMARY-EXAMINER: Tkacs; Stephen R.

ASSISTANT-EXAMINER: Alvarez; Raquel

ATTY-AGENT-FIRM: Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, L.L.P.

ABSTRACT:

An occasion database and a date converter are provided in a device which allows a user to retrieve restored occasion information, whether the occasion occurs in the Gregorian calendar or a non-Gregorian calendar. A formula is stored for each occasion to allow its date to be calculated for any given year. The date converter converts between Gregorian and non-Gregorian dates. Conversions from one non-Gregorian calendar to another non-Gregorian calendar may also be performed. An intelligent agent executes date sensitive tasks by using at least one calendar and date calculation module for providing date information necessary to execute the date sensitive tasks. The tasks may be executed at a future time and on a periodic basis. Periodic tasks may be associated with occasions that occur in the Gregorian or non-Gregorian calendar.

29 Claims, 21 Drawing figures

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L6: Entry 3 of 7

File: USPT

Jan 4, 2000

US-PAT-NO: 6012049

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6012049 A

TITLE: System for performing financial transactions using a smartcard

DATE-ISSUED: January 4, 2000

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
Kawan; Joseph C.	Hollywood	CA		

ASSIGNEE-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY	TYPE	CODE
Citicorp Development Center, Inc.	Los Angeles	CA				02

APPL-NO: 09/ 018791 [\[PALM\]](#)

DATE FILED: February 4, 1998

INT-CL: [06] [G06 F 15/30](#), [G06 F 17/60](#)

US-CL-ISSUED: 705/41; 705/25, 705/26, 235/379, 235/380, 379/90, 379/93, 704/257

US-CL-CURRENT: [705/41](#); [235/379](#), [235/380](#), [379/91.01](#), [379/93.02](#), [704/257](#), [705/25](#), [705/26](#)

FIELD-OF-SEARCH: 705/41, 379/93, 235/379, 235/380, 704/257

PRIOR-ART-DISCLOSED:

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Clear

	PAT-NO	ISSUE-DATE	PATENTEE-NAME	US-CL
<input type="checkbox"/>	4874935	October 1989	Younger	
<input type="checkbox"/>	5175416	December 1992	Mansvelt et al.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	5220501	June 1993	Lawlor et al.	379/93
<input type="checkbox"/>	5322989	June 1994	Long et al.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	5438184	August 1995	Roberts et al.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	5452357	September 1995	Naccache	
<input type="checkbox"/>	5453601	September 1995	Rosen	235/379
<input type="checkbox"/>	5461217	October 1995	Claus	

<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5461675</u>	October 1995	Diehl et al.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5473143</u>	December 1995	Vak et al.	235/380
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5487135</u>	January 1996	Freeman	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5521966</u>	May 1996	Friedes et al.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5530232</u>	June 1996	Taylor	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5555354</u>	September 1996	Strasnick et al.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5559313</u>	September 1996	Claus et al.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5574270</u>	November 1996	Steffen	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5860063</u>	January 1999	Gorin et al.	704/257

ART-UNIT: 274

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ABSTRACT:

A financial information and transaction system comprising a host financial computer system, which host system maintains records of user account information; at least one terminal providing a user interface for accessing the host financial computer system, the at least one terminal including a means for transmitting and receiving data corresponding to the user account information, and a smart card interface device; wherein access to the records of user account information are organized in a hierarchy of three or more levels, which hierarchy comprises an initial level, a final level, and one or more intervening levels; wherein the records of user account information are accessed by passing through the hierarchy of three or more levels; and wherein means are provided for allowing access to the final level in the hierarchy by an automated task without passing through the one or more intervening levels is described. Further, a financial information and transaction system comprising a host financial computer system, said host system maintaining records of user account information; at least one terminal providing a user interface for accessing said host financial computer system, said at least one terminal including a means for conducting a transaction based on the user account information, a smart card interface device; and a smart card; wherein conducting said transaction based on said records of user account information is organized in a hierarchy of three or more levels, said hierarchy of three or more levels comprising an initial level, a final level, and one or more intervening levels; wherein said transaction is conducted by passing through said hierarchy of three or more levels; and wherein means are provided for allowing access to the final level in the hierarchy by an automated task without passing through said one or more intervening levels is described. These transactions include a deposit of funds; a withdrawal of funds; an exchange of currency; a transfer of funds between said user's checking account and said user's savings account; a purchase of stock; and a sale of stock.

20 Claims, 3 Drawing figures

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L27: Entry 4 of 9

File: USPT

Nov 9, 1999

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5983200 A

**** See image for Certificate of Correction ****

TITLE: Intelligent agent for executing delegated tasks

Application Filing Date (1):

19971006

Brief Summary Text (3):

The key achievement and central paradigm of the personal computer industry has been empowering the end user, such as an office worker, to directly manipulate data (including text, sound and images) today, here and now. Now, individuals can effectively and quickly accomplish tasks that previously had to be delegated to others. For example, word processing is no longer the sole province of secretaries, graphic design (including illustration, presentation graphics, chart preparation and desktop publishing) is no longer relegated to graphic artists and art departments, and fiscal projections (since the advent of spreadsheets and relational databases) are no longer monopolized by planning and accounting departments. The paradigm has been that when armed with a personal computer, in the time it takes to assign a task, explain it, review it and correct it, the task can be done by oneself. In the process, the individual can review more data and more options enabling more informed choices with respect to the task at hand.

Brief Summary Text (4):

The paradigm can be seen at work, for example, in the greeting card industry. Evidence the computer software programs that allow users to choose or create professional quality greeting cards on a home printer, or at a stand-alone kiosk in a shopping mall, or on-line via the Internet or proprietary services such as CompuServe. Hallmark Cards, Inc. of Kansas City, Mo. and American Greetings Corp. both have had stand alone electronic kiosks, computer software programs for at-home card creation and on-line catalogues of greeting cards. In addition, U.S. Pat. No. 5,513,117 issued to Small, incorporated herein by reference, discloses an apparatus and method for electronically dispensing personalized greeting cards and gifts.

Brief Summary Text (5):

The paradigm of contemporaneous access to and manipulation of data is also embodied in U.S. Pat. No. 4,528,643 issued to Freeny, Jr., incorporated herein by reference, that discloses a system for reproducing information in material objects at a point of sale. For example, a book, greeting card, or music CD is produced in a vending machine when a purchaser puts in money. Stored, digitized information (text, graphics, sound or video) is placed on a blank medium (paper, disc, tape, etc.) at the point of sale when the device is activated. The stored information need not be stored at the point of sale. The device in Freeny, Jr. (unlike the device in Small) does not encompass personalizing the material object, and does not seem to encompass manufacturing the item at a place different from the point of sale for shipping elsewhere.

Brief Summary Text (6):

The paradigm extends to other industries and markets for products, services and entertainments as well. Both American Airlines (via its Sabre system) and United Airlines have on-line computerized airline reservation systems, and a variety of

airlines have ticket dispensing kiosks. Florists have also used kiosks and on-line "flower shops" to allow users to order flowers for delivery via wire services such as FTD. Even Domino's Pizza has a site on the Internet's World Wide Web for on-line ordering of pizza.

Brief Summary Text (7):

What these devices and methods have in common is that (1) the user must choose from myriad options, (2) the user must enter significant amounts of data (whether by keyboard "type and tab", mouse or trackball "point and click", or voice activated menu-driven selection systems), (3) the user must pay for the product at the time of ordering (as with a kiosk or on-line catalogue) or prior thereto (as with software for at home production of greeting cards), and (4) the product or service is generally "dispensed" or shipped at the time it is ordered and the user is using or otherwise "logged on" to the device.

Brief Summary Text (9):

Using the devices discussed above can be time consuming. To order flowers over the Internet, for example, may take thirty or forty minutes, whereas ordering the same flowers over the telephone through an FTD florist with a human salesperson takes less than five minutes.

Brief Summary Text (10):

Intelligent agents, such as those of Internet companies Firefly and Amazon Books, have been used to make suggestions about which products a user might like, and thus may reduce the list of choices a user must consider, but the suggestions are not self-executing as contemplated herein.

Brief Summary Text (25):

Every day the apparatus examines which orders must be executed to ensure "just in time" delivery of the required products and services. Then, it electronically orders, purchases, arranges payment for, and/or dispenses the required items. In addition, it may look up orders from previous years (or time cycles) and ask the user if he or she wants to repeat the order in the current year (or time cycle). On the day the apparatus is to execute the order, and prior to execution, payment may be accepted (after automatic electronic verification) by pre-entered credit card account, business account or electronic currency. Prepayment is also possible (including by smart card or coins in a vending machine), but not necessary.

Brief Summary Text (27):

Some embodiments of the device may be able to accept contingent instructions such as "Send piston-rings to Osaka Motors when inventory drops below 100 cases." In this case, inventory levels are obtained by other automated systems or devices, such as bar code readers (e.g., at point-of-sale or warehouse loading docks), or volume or weight sensors. Instructions may contain both contingent criteria and time and date calculations, such as "Send piston-rings to Osaka Motors every Tuesday to maintain inventory levels at 500 cases." The criteria may be based upon mathematical calculations or projections that in turn are based upon data gathered manually or automatically. For example "Send piston-rings to Osaka Motors every Tuesday to maintain inventory at 100 cases above their projected sales," where the projected sales figures are manually or automatically calculated from shipping data obtained manually or automatically from the warehouses or sales offices of Osaka Motors or point-of-sale devices for Osaka motors, which may be located in various places. The examples above illustrate how the device may be activated by other automated or semi-automated devices or software.

Brief Summary Text (34):

For example, many political groups send mail to supporters asking the supporters to send donations or to write letters to their political representatives. When the apparatus described herein receives electronic mail such as, "Please sign a copy of the enclosed letter and mail it to your Congressman," the user need only tell the

apparatus "OK" (for example, by clicking an on-screen button labeled "OK"). At that time, the apparatus will automatically insert the appropriate Congressman's name and address, affix a digitized version of the user's signature and electronically re-transmit the completed letter to a re-mailer such as the Internet company OutPost which will print the letter, place it into an envelope, attach a stamp and place it in the U.S. Mail. (Alternatively, the user could edit the proposed letter on-screen before clicking "OK".) The apparatus can also generate and mail follow up letters every week. The user can instruct the device to automatically "OK" any such request from his or her favored groups. The apparatus can just as easily (and just as automatically) send a contribution using various credit card or electronic payment schemes.

Brief Summary Text (38):

Another application with such interactions involves broadcast and point-cast media, such as radio, television, or broadcasts or point-casts over the Internet. When a user hears a tune on the radio that he or she likes, the user presses the "SEND" button on the remote control and the audio CD is automatically ordered. Of course, if the CD is to be a gift, the user must enter the recipient's name and occasion to establish a shipping address and shipping date. When a user hears or sees an advertisement over broadcast or point-cast media, and wants to order the product, the user again presses the "SEND" button on the remote control and the product is automatically ordered. Again, gift items require additional choices. When a user watches a video over the Internet, whether a music video or a situation comedy, clicking on the image of an actor will allow the user to order the clothes, jewelry, and other articles that the actor is wearing. (The device already knows the user's size, although the size of gift items must be entered.) Clicking on an object on the screen, such as furniture, an appliance or a painting, allows the user to order that item. For the examples in this paragraph, the broadcast includes purchasing information (not shown on the screen) and the device uses that information along with information it has previously stored (such as the user's credit card number and shipping address) to compose and transmit a purchase order.

Brief Summary Text (43):

The apparatus may be embodied as a stand-alone kiosk, as a kiosk connected to one or more remote devices, as a network of connected devices such as (but not limited to) computers, workstations, telephones, printers and/or fax machines. The apparatus may be embodied in other ways as well. The connections may be via one or more of (but not limited to) the following: telephone wires, cable TV wires, wireless communications (including cellular, mobile phone and satellite communications) and other electronic networks including but not limited to the Internet. Payment may be by cash (coins or bills), especially if the apparatus is embodied as a kiosk or if input to the apparatus is from a pay phone, via credit or debit card, prepaid card or business/personal account, or other electronic currency or payment scheme.

Detailed Description Text (6):

In this document, the term "periodically", means that a task is executed more than one time, including being repeatedly executed at regular intervals of time (such as the first day of every month, or every Tuesday, or at a specified date once a year), regardless of the time cycle or calendar used and including being executed repeatedly at irregular intervals or indeterminate intervals. The term includes instances where the repetitions are many, where the repetitions are few, and where there is only one repetition. The term includes situations in which the number of repetitions is known at the outset, instances where the number of repetitions is not or cannot be predetermined, and instances in which there could theoretically be an infinite number of repetitions (e.g., delegating the task of sending someone a Christmas wreath every year could theoretically occur forever, but such a standing order would in fact be canceled within a finite time). The term includes instances in which the criteria determining the repetition is well defined, random, or on a contingent or "as needed" basis. Repetitions may be triggered by timing and dating

devices as well as other automated sensors, such as bar code readers, photoelectric cells, distance or weight sensing devices, proximity detectors or any device used to detect and or record data, whether or not incorporated into point of sale devices or other inventory control apparatus. For example, various equipment may be used to record commodity or inventory levels. When the commodity or inventory levels fall below a predetermined point, the equipment sends a signal to the device of the present invention to transmit an order to replenish the commodity, or to execute some other action or non-action or change of action. Sensed data may be recorded with a variety of automatic devices including (but not limited to) analog and digital computers, and these recording devices may aggregate the data or use the data for computations or projections (whether of units or profits, etc.) using various hardware and or various mathematical methodologies. These methodologies may impose certain criteria (e.g., logical, statistical, mathematical, electrical) which when satisfied (or not satisfied) cause that device to send a signal which causes the device of the present invention to execute some action or non-action or change of action. Examples of control input include electronic data interchange information and transmittals. Such automatically generated instructions may require confirmation by the user or may proceed to execution without confirmation, or may require post-execution acknowledgment to the user by the device that automated action was taken. The device may use a rule system to combine both the automatically generated instructions and date or time based calculations of periodicity as well as user input. For example, the device may transmit an order on the first of each month, but the amount of the order, and the items ordered are based upon a combination of inventory sensing equipment and computer based sales projections along with user overrides.

Detailed Description Text (7):

In this document, the term "stand-alone device" refers to devices including (but not limited to) vending machines and kiosks which create, alter or dispense a physical product or combination of physical products such as, but not limited to, greeting cards, prepaid telephone calling cards, gift certificates, trading cards, printed material of monetary value (including but not limited to money orders, bearer notes, bonds and certificates of deposit), lottery tickets (where legal), coins and currency, or microchip (with sound clips including voice greetings, or image clips including video of still or moving images) and which then dispense it directly. The term also covers devices which personalize products by way of automated engraving or pressing (e.g., for brass or metal items), automated sewing (e.g., for monogrammed polo shirts) and printing on other media (e.g., stickers, decals or iron-on transfer paper). The term also covers devices in which the product is dispensed to a common carrier such as Federal Express or the U.S. Post Office for delivery. In addition, the term includes vending machines or kiosks which create, alter or dispense an electronically encoded product or combination of products (such as a bit-mapped image file, sound file or text file), electronic currency, electronic gift certificates or electronic versions of the physical objects mentioned in the first sentence under "stand-alone device" for transmission directly to a receiving device owned or used by the person the purchaser intends to receive the product, including but not limited to fax machines, printers, television sets and computers. In addition, the term includes vending machines or kiosks which physically dispense or electronically transmit instructions or keys (including but not limited to PIN numbers) to access on-line products, services, messages, currency or entertainment. In addition, the term includes vending machines or kiosks which create, alter or dispense a combination of any products or product types including, but not limited to, the products and product types mentioned above. The term also includes both devices which accept payment (including but not limited to cash, credit cards, debt cards or smart cards) and devices which do not themselves accept payment but require payment to be made to a clerk at a nearby sales counter. The term also includes a device which requires a clerk at a nearby sales counter to authorize the transaction via a simple switching device. A stand alone device may include a credit card reader and verifier, cash receiving equipment, an alphanumeric keyboard, one or more video screens, a voice

synthesizer, a color printer printing on blank or partially printed card stock as well as gift table memory and encoder. Input devices include alphanumeric keypads, numeric keypads, pointing devices (including but not limited to track balls, mouse pointers, and touch pads), touch screens, handwriting input pressure pads or light pens, various digitizer pads, scanners (including those for graphics, text and handwriting), optical character recognition modules, handwriting recognition modules and voice recognition modules. The handwriting input pressure pads may be used as part of credit card verification, or as input for adding signatures or handwritten message to the product which can be personalized via the other input methods. The scanner may be used for adding signatures, graphics or messages to the product, as well.

Detailed Description Text (9):

The term "interconnected device" refers to devices which perform the same functions as the aforementioned stand-alone device, but which distribute the physical and electronic components among two or more locations and connect those components so that electronically encoded data can pass between and among them. The connection may be via wire, conduit or other substance through which electrical signals can pass, fiber-optic cables or other material through which light waves or other electromagnetic radiation can pass, via air or vacuum through which radio or other electromagnetic waves can pass. The connection includes any combination of the above, as well. An example of an interconnected device is a device similar to the stand-alone device, but with an essential component located at a nearby counter with a salesclerk. The essential component might be the credit card verifier, the printer, or a second keyboard for debugging, entering essential information or editing the personalized products. Similarly, several otherwise stand-alone devices located in one department store or shopping mall might share a single printer, a single modem for transmitting and dispensing electronic items, or a single central processing unit. The term includes systems in which the central processing unit is not located in one place but rather distributed, where input is distributed, and where memory and data storage may be separate from the computational components (which themselves may be centrally located, located at various central places or distributed). In other words, parts of the computations may be performed at different locations and parts of data may be stored at different locations. Computation and memory systems may include but need not include redundancies. The term interconnected device includes both hardwired components, and networked systems of components. The term includes but is not limited to systems of mainframes connected to dumb or smart terminals, personal computers or workstations, systems of client/servers connected to personal computers and workstations, and mixtures of such systems. The term interconnected device includes distributing the components over a network of networks such as the Internet. The term includes on-line computer access, interactive television access, and telephone access, where the input is through components (including but not limited to personal computers, interactive televisions, telephones, pagers, electronic organizers, electronic Rolodexes, personal digital assistants, ATM money machines, fax machines, scanners, and handwriting input devices) owned by various parties and possibly used for other purposes which may not be covered by the present invention. This term applies regardless of which part of the creation, recollection, or dispensing of the product is distributed. As such, the term interconnected device includes software and/or hardware which enables a personal computer, interactive television or telephone or other home or office machine or appliance to become part of an interconnected device for the purposes contained herein or enable such machines to simulate the workings of a stand-alone device or an interconnected device for the purposes contained herein. The term also includes software regardless of how distributed, and whether hardwired into the machine, hard coded into its operating system, written to hard disk or permanent memory, or into temporary storage (including but not limited to CD-ROM and floppy disk), or temporarily residing in the machine via a Java-type applet downloaded from a server or off a network such as the Internet.

Detailed Description Text (10):

The term "interconnected device" includes software and/or hardware which enables a user, a sensing device, computer (or other) hardware, or software to delegate a command to or transmit an instruction to, or otherwise trigger an action by an interconnected device or an object which simulates the workings and/or actions of an interconnected device, even though owned by various parties and possibly used for other purposes which may not be covered by the present invention. For example, to the extent that off-the-shelf software such as (but not limited to) relational databases or spreadsheets trigger an interconnected device or delegate a task to an interconnected device, or embed or link an apparatus with another program, or call a function, module, procedure, or subroutine. which acts as an interconnected device, or itself triggers or delegates a task to or embeds or links an apparatus with an interconnected device, the off-the-shelf software during such triggering, delegating, embedding or calling is part of an interconnected device, even though for other purposes the off-the-shelf software might not be covered under the present invention. An interconnected device includes a device which connects to more than one interconnected devices. The term interconnected device includes the situation when two or more interconnected devices link or communicate with one another, including ascertaining tasks, breaking them up into smaller parts, and distributing the partial tasks between or among the interconnected devices in forms of inter-device task delegation and also including situations in which the several interconnected devices must provide each other with information on a one time, repeated or on-going basis in order to accomplish the complete task or its partial components.

Detailed Description Text (15):

The term "intelligent agent" means a device, or method which enables a device, to simulate the knowledge base or problem solving abilities of a human executive assistant or agent. The term includes databases (whether or not incrementally gathered) which "learn" relationships, substitutes, nicknames, user preferences, personal euphemisms, and the like. As an example, the device can be taught that the phrase "Bill and Patti" refers to "Mr. and Mrs. William Jones, III" and that they have a particular address, or phone number, with particular likes and dislikes, etc. so that when the user inputs "Bill and Patti" the device can supply other additional essential information necessary for the task at hand. The term intelligent agent includes databases which generate a profile of user preferences by interactive questioning, by recording a history of the user's actual choices, or by some other means or combination of means. The term includes databases which use such profiles to create inference ranking rules that would suggest which choices an individual most prefers or which alternatives an individual might prefer (even if not yet faced with that choice). The term includes programs or methods based upon relationships and likenesses among possible choices, as well as rankings determined by polling like-minded or similarly preferenced individual (such as but not limited to the Firefly system on the Internet, by which individuals list favorite records or books, the program groups individuals with similar likes, and then infers that other records or books enjoyed by an individual would be enjoyed by similar individuals even if the similar individual had not listed the records or books). The term also includes programs which search out information, data, products, merchants, services, and the like. which meet pre-specified criteria. For example, an intelligent agent could search for the best price for a particular product, the best quality among similar products (according to some ranking organization such as Consumer Reports), or the "best" ratio of price to quality (according to some rule or rules, ranking organization such as Consumer Reports, or even expert system as defined below). As further example, an intelligent agent could search for the "biggest" rose, or the "shortest" layover time in an airplane flight schedule. The criteria might be generated by internal rules, specified by the user, or inferred from prior user choices. The term intelligent agent refers to a device or software which accomplishes one or more of the above or similar operations.

Detailed Description Text (19):

Referring to FIG. 1, the numeral 10 generally refers to an apparatus for dispensing products or ordering products and services, for present or future implementation. A video display 12 may include a pair of display screens 14 and 16 which need not be the same size. One or more of the displays 16 may include a transparent interactive overlay to act as a touch screen, by which the user may use his or her finger as a pointing device. A pointing device 18, such as a stylus or light pen, is also shown which may select items from the screen or enter handwriting including signatures to an order to personalize objects. An alphanumeric keyboard 20 is affixed to the apparatus for data entry of alphanumeric and other information. A credit card reader 22 and currency receiver 24 provide alternative methods for users to pay for the services rendered. Those finished products produced by the apparatus itself for immediate delivery are dispensed via the out-tray 26. For products to be dispensed in the future, a second out-tray is provided. The second out-tray is not visible or accessible by a user of the device, but is a receptacle within the machine, accessible by key 28. Once each day, the finished items stored inside the machine are removed by a service person for shipping.

Detailed Description Text (20):

Referring to FIG. 2, a block schematic diagram of the apparatus 10 is illustrated. A programmable CPU 34 includes various kinds of memory 36 as well as intelligent agent learning modules 38 and a calendar and date calculation module 40 either of which may be hard coded into the CPU 34 or onto a separate connected microchip. The CPU 34 is connected to various data input devices, such as the keyboard 20, the pointing device 18, which may be a mouse, track ball or other digitizer, a speech recognition unit 32, or a touch screen 30. The CPU 34 is also connected to payment input devices such as the currency receiver 24 and the credit card reader 22. In addition, the CPU 34 is connected to the interactive screen or display screen 16 and to a modem 46. The modem is used to dial preprogrammed credit card verification facilities to confirm credit availability for a user who inserts a credit card into the card reader 22 which may or may not require input of a personal identification number or PIN via the keyboard 20. Alternatively, the user may enter his or her credit card number or credit account solely via the keyboard.

Detailed Description Text (23):

Input is provided via the various remote devices 60, 62, 64 or 66. Each remote device, whether a kiosk 52, personal computer 54, telephone 56, or interactive television 58, etc. includes or is attached to a modem 70 which digitizes and encodes the input data for transmission. The data is transmitted to the central hub or server 50 through a communication medium or transmission system 68 which includes networks (such as the Internet), telephone systems (public and/or private), radio wave, microwave, and satellite transmission systems, etc. At the central hub, a modem 46 reconstitutes the data into an electronic form usable by the CPU 34.

Detailed Description Text (24):

Payment for products and services is made by the user at the remote devices (60, 62, 64 and 66) using devices such as (but not limited to) credit card readers, currency receivers, credit card numbers entered via an alphanumeric keyboard, or voice which are not shown here. The information is transferred via modem 70 and the transmission system 68 through the central hub's modem 46 to the CPU 34. The CPU employs the modem 46 to dial preprogrammed credit card verification facilities to confirm credit availability, using payment verification programs and databases 48. (The central hub unit may have one or more modems to perform the input and output operations.)

Detailed Description Text (29):

Each repeat user is assigned a password or user identification number. The password or user identification number might be assigned by the system operator or administrator prior to a user's first use of the device. In an integrated computer system, a user might have the same password to access both the portions of the

computer which embody this invention, and other portions of the computer which perform other tasks, such as word processing, or accounting. Alternatively, the device might assign a password to the user on his or her first use of the device or the device might let the user pick his or her own password that the device then remembers. If the user's access to the interactive device is via software installed on his or her own computer, the password might be assigned or chosen as a part of the setup and installation procedure of the software. Alternatively, the device might be programmed to accept a user ID issued by a third party (e.g., a credit card number, PIN number or social security number, etc.) as a valid ID. Rather than a password, a device might use other user identification procedures, such as retina scans, finger print scans or vocal identification, with requisite hardware incorporated into the device. If the user's access to the interactive device is via software installed on his or her own desktop terminal or computer, "logging on" to the computer or computer system using that user identification number and password, may also automatically "log" the user on to the present invention. In such a case, the enabling software resides as a memory resident program (like many scheduler and organizer programs) which is loaded when the machine is first booted up, but remains "dormant", with minimal use of machine resources until the user calls upon the present invention ("logs on") by clicking an icon, pressing a special key or combination of keys, or issuing a special voice command. In such an embodiment, the user, as part of the installation procedure, enters certain essential information for purchasing and delivering the items, such as his or her own name, return address, credit card number(s), and preferred closing ("Sincerely yours, Ben").

Detailed Description Text (38):

If the user has previously entered one unique address for the "contact", the device enters it automatically (steps 102 and 106). Otherwise the user must enter an address (step 104). The address can be typed or (in the case of a contact with multiple addresses) clicked on from a drop-down combo list. Again, if the user begins typing the address, the device's program automatically completes the address after the first few keystrokes. In addition, the user can type in words such as "Home", "Residence", "Office", "Work", or "Business". The device recognizes such shorthand words and enters the appropriate address if one has been uniquely so categorized. As above, the user may instead, click on the words where highlighted in the on-screen instructions. As explained in the on-screen instructions, the user may also click on (or type in) the words "Last Address" or "Last Occasion Address" to access other addresses learned by the device.

Detailed Description Text (52):

The transmission of orders is accomplished via various output devices and means using analog and/or digital signals and modems to convert between analog and digital, where appropriate. Transmission occurs over wires (such as coaxial cable, telephone wires and fiber optic cables) of various private or public systems including telephone systems and cable TV system. Alternatively, transmission occurs using electromagnetic waves (such as but not limited to microwaves and radio waves) through various media (such as air) or no media (such as the vacuum of space) of various private or public systems including but not limited to cellular phones, direct satellite transmissions, interactive broadcast television. In addition, the transmission occurs within private or public networks, and/or networks of networks, including but not limited to intranets and the Internet. By way of example, in one embodiment, the transmission of orders is a fax transmission to a third party merchandise supplier over public telephone lines. In another embodiment, the transmission of orders is by direct wireless computer-to-computer data transmission over the cellular phone network. Various other methods of transmission have been described above.

Detailed Description Text (56):

The device described above builds and then accesses a database consisting of a number of data tables. The database can be constructed in a variety of ways, but an illustrative list of key tables includes: (a) a contacts table (or set of linked

and related tables) that acts as a contact manager containing names, addresses, telephone numbers, and other personal and business information; (b) an occasions table (or set of linked and related tables) that contains general information on holidays, celebrations and other occasions, including means of calculating the date of holidays based on non-Gregorian calendars, and default holiday messages; (c) a products table (or set of linked and related tables) that contains the products or services which can be ordered and information concerning them including prices and bit-mapped product images (or paths to such images) where appropriate, suppliers and the means to electronically send orders to them, and; (d) an orders table (or set of linked and related tables) that records items to be sent, where, to whom, functioning as the "do it" list for the program as well as history of past transactions. Other embodiments of the invention use tables appropriate to the tasks being delegated which may be similar or different from the above illustration.

Current US Original Classification (1):

705/26

Current US Cross Reference Classification (2):

705/27

CLAIMS:

1. An intelligent agent for executing tasks, at least some of the tasks being date sensitive, and at least some of the tasks being physical commercial transactions which require payment of funds for completion of the task, the intelligent agent comprising:

(a) at least one data input device for entering tasks to be executed, at least one of the tasks including a first subtask for executing a physical commercial transaction, and a second subtask for executing a payment of funds related to the cost of the physical commercial transaction, wherein at least some of the first and second subtasks are indicated as being executed at a future date;

(b) at least one intelligent agent learning module for storing information necessary to execute the tasks including information associated with previously executed tasks;

(c) at least one calendar and date calculation module for providing date information necessary to execute the date sensitive tasks;

(d) a computer connected to the at least one data input device, the at least one calendar and date calculation module, and the at least one learning module, the computer receiving the entered tasks, calendar and date information, and learning module information relevant to the tasks, processing the information, and generating instructions for executing the tasks, the computer using at least some of the previously stored information to execute at least some currently requested tasks, the computer including a future task instruction generator for allowing entered tasks, including physical commercial transaction tasks and payment tasks related to the physical commercial transaction, to be executed at a future date; and

(e) at least one output device connected to the computer for execution of the tasks on the appropriate date, the at least one output device including a first output device to perform the physical commercial transaction on the appropriate date, and a second output device to execute the payment of funds on the appropriate date.

2. An intelligent agent according to claim 1 wherein the instructions for executing the date sensitive tasks include instructions to execute at least one of the date sensitive tasks on a periodic basis.

3. An intelligent agent according to claim 2 wherein at least some of the date sensitive tasks are based upon a non-Gregorian calendar, and the calendar and date calculation module is programmed to determine Gregorian calendar dates for executing the task based upon the non-Gregorian calendar or based at least in part on a non-Gregorian periodicity or periodicities.

5. An intelligent agent according to claim 1 wherein at least some of the date sensitive tasks are based upon a Gregorian calendar.

15. A method of interconnecting a plurality of devices to form an intelligent agent for executing tasks, the devices including (i) at least one data input device, (ii) at least one intelligent agent learning module for storing information necessary to execute the tasks including information associated with previously executed tasks, (iii) at least one calendar and date calculation module for providing date information necessary to execute date sensitive tasks, (iv) a computer connected to the at least one data input device, the at least one calendar and date calculation module, and the at least one learning module, the computer including a future task instruction generator for allowing entered tasks, including physical commercial transaction tasks and payment tasks related to the physical commercial transaction, to be executed at a future date and (v) at least one output device connected to the computer including a first output device to perform the physical commercial transaction, and a second output device to execute payment of funds for the physical commercial transaction, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) entering tasks to be executed into the at least one data input device, at least some of the entered tasks being date sensitive, at least one of the tasks including a first subtask for executing a physical commercial transaction, and a second subtask for executing a payment of funds related to the cost of the physical commercial transaction, wherein at least some of the first and second subtasks are indicated as being executed at a future date;

(b) receiving the entered tasks, calendar and date information, and the learning module information relevant to the tasks by the computer;

(c) processing the information by the computer to generate instructions for executing the tasks; and

(d) executing the tasks with the at least one output device on the appropriate date, the computer using at least some of the previously stored information to execute at least some currently requested tasks, the task executing step including generating future task instructions to execute the first and second subtasks.

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Search Results - Record(s) 1 through 9 of 9 returned.

☐ 1. Document ID: US 6476830 B1

L27: Entry 1 of 9

File: USPT

Nov 5, 2002

US-PAT-NO: 6476830

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6476830 B1

TITLE: Virtual objects for building a community in a virtual world

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Abstract	Claims	Drawings	Drawings
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☐ 2. Document ID: US 6108640 A

L27: Entry 2 of 9

File: USPT

Aug 22, 2000

US-PAT-NO: 6108640

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6108640 A

TITLE: System for calculating occasion dates and converting between different calendar systems, and intelligent agent for using same

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Abstract	Claims	Drawings	Drawings
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☐ 3. Document ID: US 6026374 A

L27: Entry 3 of 9

File: USPT

Feb 15, 2000

US-PAT-NO: 6026374

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6026374 A

TITLE: System and method for generating trusted descriptions of information products

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Abstract	Claims	Drawings	Drawings
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☒ 4. Document ID: US 5983200 A

L27: Entry 4 of 9

File: USPT

Nov 9, 1999

US-PAT-NO: 5983200

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5983200 A

** See image for Certificate of Correction **

TITLE: Intelligent agent for executing delegated tasks

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Abstract	Attachments	Claims	KWIC	Drawings
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☐ 5. Document ID: US 5979757 A

L27: Entry 5 of 9

File: USPT

Nov 9, 1999

US-PAT-NO: 5979757

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5979757 A

TITLE: Method and system for presenting item information using a portable data terminal

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Abstract	Attachments	Claims	KWIC	Drawings
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☐ 6. Document ID: US 5971273 A

L27: Entry 6 of 9

File: USPT

Oct 26, 1999

US-PAT-NO: 5971273

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5971273 A

TITLE: Automated florist system allowing direct contact with delivering florist

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Abstract	Attachments	Claims	KWIC	Drawings
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☐ 7. Document ID: US 5940805 A

L27: Entry 7 of 9

File: USPT

Aug 17, 1999

US-PAT-NO: 5940805

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5940805 A

TITLE: Method of selling data records as well as vending apparatus, memory device, chip card, and system for selling telecommunications software

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Abstract	Attachments	Claims	KWIC	Drawings
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☐ 8. Document ID: US 5918213 A

L27: Entry 8 of 9

File: USPT

Jun 29, 1999

US-PAT-NO: 5918213

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5918213 A

TITLE: System and method for automated remote previewing and purchasing of music, video, software, and other multimedia products

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Abstract	Claims	Drawings	Drawings
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☐ 9. Document ID: US 5860362 A

L27: Entry 9 of 9

File: USPT

Jan 19, 1999

US-PAT-NO: 5860362

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5860362 A

TITLE: Newspaper vending machine with online connection

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Abstract	Claims	Drawings	Drawings
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Search Results -

Terms	Documents
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Database:

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DATE: Tuesday, September 21, 2004 [Printable Copy](#) [Create Case](#)

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DB=USPT; THES=ASSIGNEE; PLUR=YES; OP=OR

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L6: Entry 5 of 7

File: USPT

Nov 9, 1999

US-PAT-NO: 5979757

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5979757 A

TITLE: Method and system for presenting item information using a portable data terminal

DATE-ISSUED: November 9, 1999

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
Tracy; William X.	Floral Park	NY		
Roslak; Thomas K.	Eastport	NY		
Murrah; Judith	St. James	NY		
Riso; Francis	Setauket	NY		
Beach; Robert	Los Altos	CA		
Sandler; Robert	Holtsville	NY		
Klein; John	Morgan Hill	CA		

ASSIGNEE-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY	TYPE CODE
Symbol Technologies, Inc.	Holtsville	NY			02

APPL-NO: 08/ 771463 [PALM]

DATE FILED: December 20, 1996

PARENT-CASE:

RELATED APPLICATIONS This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 08/706,579 entitled "DEVICE AND METHOD FOR SECURE DATA UPDATES IN A SELF-CHECKOUT SYSTEM" filed on Sep. 5, 1996, currently pending, and is related to pending United States patent application entitled "INTRANET SCANNING TERMINAL SYSTEM" filed on Dec. 20, 1996.

INT-CL: [06] G06 K 7/10US-CL-ISSUED: 235/383; ~~235/472.01~~, 235/385, 705/27, 186/56US-CL-CURRENT: 235/383, 186/56, 235/385, ~~235/472.01~~, 705/27

FIELD-OF-SEARCH: 235/383, 235/472, 235/385, 235/472.01, 705/708, 705/410, 705/16, 705/27, 705/26, 186/52, 186/56, 186/61

PRIOR-ART-DISCLOSED:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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<input type="checkbox"/> <u>5679943</u>	October 1997	Schultz et al.	235/472
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>5751257</u>	May 1998	Sutherland	345/2

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN-PAT-NO	PUBN-DATE	COUNTRY	US-CL
619662A2	March 1994	EP	
697793A2	February 1996	EP	
744856A2	November 1996	EP	
9002296	October 1990	NL	

WO90/16033

December 1990

WO

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

The Wireless Store, The Strategic Enviroment for Retailing's Future (Symbol Technologies Brochure) Jan. 1992, p. 15.

ART-UNIT: 286

PRIMARY-EXAMINER: Hajec; Donald

ASSISTANT-EXAMINER: Rodriguez; Douglas X.

ATTY-AGENT-FIRM: Premutico; Mauro

ABSTRACT:

The present invention relates to an improved portable shopping system. The system is provided with improved data presentation system for presenting customer desired data on a portable terminal. The portable terminal includes audio as well as video presentation means which are used to provide customer specific marketing files to promote the sale of identified items.

16 Claims, 14 Drawing figures

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L6: Entry 6 of 7

File: USPT

Oct 26, 1999

US-PAT-NO: 5971273

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5971273 A

TITLE: Automated florist system allowing direct contact with delivering florist

DATE-ISSUED: October 26, 1999

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
Vallaire; Milton E.	New Orleans	LA	70117	

APPL-NO: 08/ 936234 [\[PALM\]](#)

DATE FILED: September 24, 1997

PARENT-CASE:

REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION This utility patent application is based on co-pending, provisional patent application Ser. No. 60/026,675 filed Sep. 25, 1996 entitled "Automated Florist System", the priority benefit of which is claimed for the instant utility application.

INT-CL: [06] [G06 K 5/00](#), [G06 K 7/08](#)US-CL-ISSUED: 235/381; [235/382](#), [235/385](#), [705/26](#), [340/825.25](#)US-CL-CURRENT: [235/381](#), [235/375](#), [235/382](#) ✓ [235/385](#) ✓ [340/825.25](#), [705/26](#)

FIELD-OF-SEARCH: 235/381, 235/382, 235/383, 235/385, 340/825.25, 705/26, 705/25

PRIOR-ART-DISCLOSED:

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<input type="checkbox"/>	4953363	September 1990	Primozić	62/255
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OTHER PUBLICATIONS

"Tools of the Trade"--Ad of 24-Hours Flower, Inc.

ART-UNIT: 286

PRIMARY-EXAMINER: Le; Thien Minh

ASSISTANT-EXAMINER: St. Cyr; Daniel

ATTY-AGENT-FIRM: Pugh; C. Emmett Pugh/Associates

ABSTRACT:

An automated florist system, including an associated cooler (20, FIG. 1) and order taking control unit (22, FIG. 2) for automated vending and order placements specifically for flowers and gift items. The system, with the control unit being pre-programmed using appropriate logic (FIG. 3), allows a walk-up or drive-up customer to select from a variety of pre-made flower arrangements from discrete cells equipped with the necessary refrigeration for immediate purchase, or, alternatively, a selection may be made, and information entered, for remote delivery at a specified time and place (note displayed "order form" of FIG. 5). Further, the operating, host florist of the vending system can remotely monitor and conduct all business with the vending machine from the operating florist's shop (FIG. 4), with the sole exception of stocking the machine with items for immediate purchase; while the sending of an order to an affiliated florist for a distant delivery is fully automated; see FIG. 6.

24 Claims, 6 Drawing figures

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L6: Entry 7 of 7

File: USPT

Jun 29, 1999

US-PAT-NO: 5918213

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5918213 A

TITLE: System and method for automated remote previewing and purchasing of music, video, software, and other multimedia products

DATE-ISSUED: June 29, 1999

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
Bernard; Warren E.	Bethesda	MD		
Jacobson; Philip A.	Vienna	VA		

ASSIGNEE-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY	TYPE CODE
MCI Communications Corporation		DE			02

APPL-NO: 08/ 580104 [PALM]

DATE FILED: December 22, 1995

INT-CL: [06] G06 F 17/60

US-CL-ISSUED: 705/26; 705/27, 395/200.57, 395/200.58, 395/200.59

US-CL-CURRENT: 705/26; 705/27, 709/227, 709/228, 709/229

FIELD-OF-SEARCH: 364/41R, 364/478.01, 364/479.03, 235/381, 395/226, 395/227, 395/200.57, 395/200.58, 395/200.59, 705/26, 705/27

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<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5251252</u>	October 1993	Katz	
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5359645</u>	October 1994	Katz	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5418713</u>	May 1995	Allen	364/403
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5539635</u>	July 1996	Larson, Jr.	

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ART-UNIT: 271

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ASSISTANT-EXAMINER: Hughet; William N.

ABSTRACT:

An automated product purchasing system allows purchasers to order products via a remote communications medium without having to speak to a sales representative or other human operator. According to the invention, purchasers access the automated product purchasing system and browse among the selections offered. Menu style prompts guide the customer through the various products offered by the automated product purchasing system. Product descriptions are provided to assist the customer in making his or her selections. Where appropriate, product samples are provided to the customer via the communications medium so the customer can evaluate the product prior to purchasing. Examples of product samples include movie previews, sample cuts from music tracks, software demos, and the like. Ordering and purchasing are automated so that human operators are not required to intervene in the process. The use of a membership profile with important customer information facilitates the automation of the process and minimizes the amount of times a repeat customer needs to provide this information.

40 Claims, 47 Drawing figures

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